

PCB JDC 20-03

ORIGINAL

2020

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to contingency fee multipliers;
3 amending s. 57.104, F.S.; prohibiting the application
4 of a contingency fee multiplier in certain cases;
5 providing an effective date.

6
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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9 Section 1. Section 57.104, Florida Statutes, is amended to
10 read:

11 57.104 Computation of attorneys' fees.—

12 (1) In any action in which attorneys' fees are to be
13 determined or awarded by the court, the court shall consider,
14 among other things, time and labor of any legal assistants who
15 contributed nonclerical, meaningful legal support to the matter
16 involved and who are working under the supervision of an
17 attorney. For purposes of this section "legal assistant" means a
18 person, who under the supervision and direction of a licensed
19 attorney engages in legal research, and case development or
20 planning in relation to modifications or initial proceedings,
21 services, processes, or applications; or who prepares or
22 interprets legal documents or selects, compiles, and uses
23 technical information from references such as digests,
24 encyclopedias, or practice manuals and analyzes and follows
25 procedural problems that involve independent decisions.

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26 (2) A court award of attorney fees must be calculated
27 without regard to a contingency fee multiplier in any action
28 unless expressly provided for by general law.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, and
30 shall apply to all actions filed on or after that date.